



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/581,380

06/01/2006

Robertus Martinus M. Diks

F7743(V)

3881

201 7590 05/07/2009
UNILEVER PATENT GROUP
800 SYLVAN AVENUE
AG West S. Wing
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632-3100

EXAMINER

SMITH, PRESTON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/581,380	Applicant(s) DIKS ET AL.	
	Examiner PRESTON SMITH	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

28DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Examiner acknowledges applicant's cancellation of claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant did not disclose "photosterol" listed in claim 1 in the specification and it is thus considered that the addition of "photosterol" constitutes new matter.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 1794

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear whether "photosterol" is intended to be "phytosterol".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auriou, WO 02/065859 in view of Naohiro Goto, US-Patent 6,326,050.

Regarding claims 1, 4-7, 9, Auriou teaches preparing an emulsified product (dispersion or suspension (page 12, 3rd paragraph)) comprising phytosterol dispersed in an aqueous phase, which comprises mixing particulate phytosterol with an aqueous phase, adding a non-sterol emulsifier having an HLB value of at least 7 to the aqueous phase and/or to a fat phase, and mixing the ingredients together with the aqueous phase and the fat phase to form an emulsion (page 3, 4th paragraph). The aqueous phase is maintained at a temperature of between 60-100 C (for at least 5 minutes to 2 hours) and stirred until the phytosterol is evenly dispersed and milk protein may be added (page 12, 3rd paragraph). Monoglycerides may be used as an emulsifier (page 13, 3rd paragraph). The amount of non-sterol emulsifier may be between 0.01 -1% by weight in the final product (page 8, 4th paragraph). POE fatty esters may also be added to the product (page 10, 3rd paragraph).

It is unclear if treating the product at a temperature range of 60-100 C (for at least 5 minutes to 2 hours) would be sufficient to sterilize the product and thus it is considered that Auriou fails to explicitly teach a sterilization process which would produce a sterilized product for the embodiment discussed previously (examiner however points out that the emulsion can be used for infant formulas (page 13, last line) which are normally sterilized).

Referring to sterilization, Goto teaches that it was well known in the art to sterilize emulsions having oily and aqueous phases (column 15, lines 35-40). It would have thus been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

Art Unit: 1794

sterilize the emulsion of Auriou in order to kill any microbes that may be present in the emulsion.

Regarding claims 2-3, Auriou teaches a product made by a very similar method as the embodiment discussed previously wherein the product has a Milk protein content of 0.9 wt% in Table 1 on page 16.

Auriou fails to teach the wt% of milk protein in the described method embodiment of the invention however.

It would have however been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to maintain the milk protein content close to 0.9% in order to maintain the integrity of the invention of Auriou and produce a product with the properties desired by the invention of Auriou. Since producing a product with a similar milk protein amount would have been obvious, it is considered that applicant's claimed range of 0.5-10wt% would have been obvious in light of Auriou.

Regarding claim 8, there is no clear teaching in Auriou pertaining to the amount of fat in the emulsion of the described embodiment however Auriou does in fact teach that the amount of fats would vary depending on the type of product desired (page 9, 3rd paragraph). Fats in low fat salad dressings may be from 0-10% (page 9, 3rd paragraph).

In light of this teaching of Auriou, if one of ordinary skill in the art desired to produce a low fat salad dressing (or food product) product, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to look to this teaching of Auriou and

Art Unit: 1794

maintain the fat content from 0-10%. In light of Auriou, it is thus considered that the claimed fat range of 0.1 to wt% would have been obvious.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PRESTON SMITH whose telephone number is (571)270-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Th 6:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571)272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Drew E Becker/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

prs